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**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
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May 2, 2005

TO: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – SUMMER PLACE
GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Summer Place Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Summer Place, Inc. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Summer Place Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for girls ages 10-17 who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Summer Place Group Home was providing services for one Los Angeles County DCFS child and four San Bernardino County DCFS children. Summer Place Group Home is located in San Bernardino County.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review was to determine whether the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues, and included an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, facility inspections, and an interview with one child placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. The interview with the resident was designed to obtain her perspective on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

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Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Agency needs to develop Needs and Services Plans that have measurable goals.

Attached is a detailed report of the review findings.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management is required to provide a corrective action plan to the Children Services Group Home Ombudsman within 20 business days from the date of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:asl

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Paul Higa, Chief Probation Officer
James Dubose, Executive Director, Summer Place
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Summer Place Group Home
2027 Deodar St.
Ontario, CA 91764
Phone: (909) 945-2736
License No.: 360911286
Rate Classification Level: 8**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Sample size for resident interviews: One

Comments:

Summer Place Group Home (Group Home or Agency) is located in a residential community. The Group Home is clean, spacious, and comfortable. The Group Home is well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated and maintained. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR/DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible and appropriately dated.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interview

Sample size for resident interviews: One

Comments:

The resident meets the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. The resident received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plan (NSP) is current. Although the goals in the NSP are specific, realistic and time limited, they are not measurable. There was documentation to support the placement worker's participation in the development and update of the NSP.

The resident's quarterly report is current, and comprehensive.

The resident is provided with psychological testing, and emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of the resident receiving regular individual and/or group therapy.

Recommendation

1. **Summer Place Group Home management develop Needs and Services Plans that have measurable goals.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interview

Sample size for resident interviews: One

Comments:

The resident is attending school. Her records contain current semester report cards and/or progress reports. The resident reported that she is provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feels that the Group Home is supportive of her academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. The resident is involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed and employment preparation encouraged.

The resident is not old enough to participate in emancipation and vocational programs.

The resident is not employed.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interview

Sample size for resident interviews: One

Comments:

The Agency provides the resident opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The resident expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. The resident reported that she participates in planning some of the activities. The resident has free time and is able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documentation

Comments:

According to the Agency's management, there are no residents receiving psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interview

Sample size for resident interviews: One

Comments:

The resident expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. The resident participated in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. The resident reported that she feels safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with her daily living functions.

The resident reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with her ability to participate in menu development. She reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of her interactions with staff.

The resident reported that she is assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. The resident is able to have visitors and make and receive personal telephone calls. She is permitted to contact her placement worker, attorney, and family members as needed. The resident is able to attend religious services of her choice and feels that the Agency is respectful of her cultural lifestyle. The Agency allows the resident to celebrate holidays.

The resident reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

The resident is aware of her right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interview

Sample size for resident interviews: One

Comments:

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the resident. The Group Home supplies the resident with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance and the resident is given the opportunity to select her own clothes. Clothing provided to the resident is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Agency provides the resident with the required minimum base allowance, which she is able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. The resident is permitted to spend her allowance as she chooses.

The Agency provides the resident with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

The resident is provided with regular opportunities to maintain a photo album/life book.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.